

MASSACHUSETTS COALITION OF SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

TESTIMONY

SPECIAL COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE PAYMENT SYSTEM

GARDNER AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

SUBMITTED BY: ANTONIA BLINN

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

Good afternoon, co-chairs Secretary Kirwin and Commissioner Iselin, Senator Moore and other distinguished members of the Special Commission on Health Care Payment System. I am Antonia Blinn, Program and Policy Director for the MA Coalition of School-Based Health Centers representing 64 school-based health centers and 25 sponsoring agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about school-based health centers which are unique partnerships among health organizations and schools that enable quality health care services, much like a doctor's office, to be provided helping students to remain healthy and succeed in school.

- Services provided include health education and chronic disease care such as asthma and diabetes, mental health and substance abuse counseling, grief therapy, help with peer pressure and bullying and suicide prevention

School-Based Health Centers are cost effective:

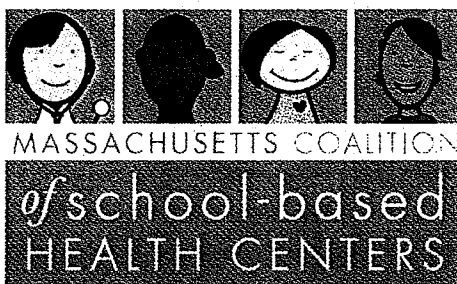
- School-based health centers are generally staffed by nurse practitioners, a cost-effective model of health care;
- A study by Johns Hopkins University found that school-based health centers reduced inappropriate emergency room use among regular users of school-based health centers; and
- A study of school-based health center costs by Emory University School of Public Health attributed a reduction in Medicaid expenditures related to inpatient, drug and emergency department use due to student's utilization of school-based health centers.

Recommendation:

School-based health centers sponsoring agencies should be reimbursed for services that are provided.

1. Prior authorization (referrals) should be waived for services provided in the school-based health centers and with the consent of the patient, progress notes should be forwarded to the primary care provider. With expansion of the electronic medical record into school-based health centers, chronic disease management and visit information will be easier to share, with patient consent. School-based health centers consist of 1-3 staff (depending on services provided) and the prior authorization process is cumbersome – so having a blanket waiver for school-based health centers would be one of the strategies that would lead to self-sufficiency
2. Increase the reimbursement rate for school-based health centers. Identifying student's risks and residencies takes time. A study conducted by the New England Partnership for Substance Abuse Research found that students who were screened in the school-based health centers revealed their use of substances more readily. Additionally, adolescents were 10-21 times more likely to come to the school-based health center for mental health services than an HMO or community health center.

School-Based Health Centers Can Not survive on the current reimbursement system and on behalf of the 64 school-based health centers, I appreciate your careful consideration of ensuring that reimbursement is provided in a fair, thoughtful manner to ensure that this vital health safety need for children in the Commonwealth continues to keep costs down. School-Based Health Centers are a key to student success by ensuring that the Commonwealth's children are healthy and ready to learn.



Benefits of School-Based Health Centers

School-Based Health Centers benefit students, their families, schools, businesses and the health care system.

School-Based Health Centers Support Students and Families by:

- Strengthening the connection between the school and the family;
- Providing comprehensive health care where children spend the majority of their day, eliminating transportation and other problems that inhibit access to health care;
- Increasing access to physical, mental and dental health services, making access easier especially for students whose parents or caretakers work long hours or multiple jobs; and
- Providing referrals to families for a variety of health & human services.

African American male School-Based Health Center users were three times more likely to stay in school than their peers who did not use the health center.

McCord MT, Klein J, Foy JM, Fothergill K. School-based clinic use and school performance. J Adolescent Health 1993;14(2):91-98.

Students who received mental health services in a school-based health center had an 85% decline in school discipline referrals.

Dallas Youth and Family Centers Program: Hall, LS (2001). *Final Report -- Youth and Family Centers Program 2000-2001* (REIS01-172-2). Dallas Independent

School-Based Health Centers Support Education by:

- Identifying students at risk for both physical illness and emotional or behavioral trouble, and intervening early to help children learn to be safe and healthy;
- Keeping students in school. Research shows that students who use school-based health centers experience less absenteeism than their peers;
- Providing counseling and mental health services to students experiencing personal or emotional difficulties, lessening the burden on the school; and
- Responding in times of school and community crisis.

School-Based Health Center reduced emergency room utilization and increased the number of preventive screenings.

Adams EK, Johnson V. An elementary SBHC: Can it reduce Medicaid costs? Pediatrics 2000 Apr;105(4 Pt 1):780-8.

School-Based Health Centers Support Businesses by:

- Reducing parent's time away from work for issues related to children's health care needs;
- Reducing health care costs by detecting illness early before the need for expensive services; and
- Enrolling qualified students and their families into health insurance programs, lessening the burden on employers.

School-Based Health Centers reduced hospitalizations and increased school attendance among inner-city school children with asthma.

Webber MP, Carpinello KE, Oruwariye T, Yungtai L, Burton WB, and Appel DK. Burden of asthma in elementary school children: Do SBHCs make a difference? Arch Pediatric Adolescent Med. 2003; 157: 125-129.

School-Based Health Centers Support the Health Care System by:

- Promoting collaboration with primary care providers, while providing continuity of health care;
- Providing timely access to primary health care and preventative medicine, which reduces costly emergency room visits;
- Enrolling qualified students and their families into health insurance programs; lessening the burden on the Health Safety Net (formerly uncompensated care pool); and
- Monitoring students with chronic health conditions easily.



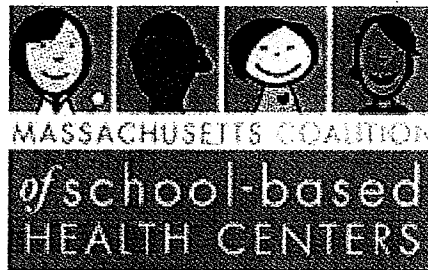
Massachusetts Coalition of School-Based Health Centers

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On the front lines of children's health





Massachusetts School-Based Health Center Locations Listed by Sponsoring Agency 2008-2009

There are 64 school-based health centers located throughout the Commonwealth serving students in 69 schools. Of those, 13 are federally funded, 47 are stated funded and 4 are locally funded. There are also two school-based health centers in the planning phase.

Baystate Medical Center (7)

Brightwood Elementary School *
Central High School
Commerce High School
East Longmeadow High School**
German Gerena School
Rebecca M. Johnson School
Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical High School

Boston Public Health Commission (9)

Boston Community Leadership Academy/Another Course to College (BCLA/ACC)**
Boston Latin Academy
Brighton High School
Charlestown High School
George A. Lewis Middle School
Jeremiah Burke High School
John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science
Madison Park High School
Muriel Snowden International School

Brookside Community Health Center

English High School

Cambridge Health Alliance (4)

Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School
Everett High School*
George Keverian School
Somerville High School

Cape Cod Hospital (2)

Barnstable High School
Cape Cod Regional Technical High School*

Codman Square Health Center

Dorchester High School

Community Health Center of Franklin County (2)

Mohawk Trail Regional School
Pioneer Valley Regional School*

Community Health Connections Family Health Centers

Fitchburg High School***

Dorchester House Multi-Service Center

Harbor School

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

East Boston High School**

Family Health Center of Worcester (7)

Claremont/Woodland Academy Health Center
Doherty Memorial High School
Elm Park Community School*
Goddard & UPC School Based Health Centers**
South High Community School
Sullivan Middle School
Worcester Technical High School

Great Brook Valley Health Center (4)

Burncoat Middle/High School
Framingham High School***
North High School
Roosevelt Elementary School

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (2)

Greater Lawrence Technical School
Lawrence High School

Heywood Hospital

Murdock Middle/High School

Hilltown Community Health Center

Gateway Regional Middle/High School

Joseph Smith Health Center (2)

Jackson Mann Elementary School**
Gardner Elementary School**

Lowell Community Health Center (3)

Lowell High School
Rogers Middle School**
Stoklosa Middle School**

Lynn Community Health Center (6)

Breed Middle School
Ingalls' School
Lynn English High School
Lynn Classical High School**
Lynn Vocational Technical Institute
Marshall Middle School

Mattapan Community Health Center

Hyde Park Educational Complex**

MGH Community HealthCare (2)

Chelsea High School
Revere High School

Milford Regional Medical Center

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical
High School

Morton Hospital & Medical Center (2)

Friedman Middle School
Taunton High School

North Shore Community Health

Salem High School

Northeast Hospital Corporation

Gloucester High School

River Valley Counseling Center (3)

Dean Technical High School
Holyoke High School
Peck Middle School

KEY

No Footnote indicates received state funding Fiscal Year 2009

* Locally Funded

** Federally Funded

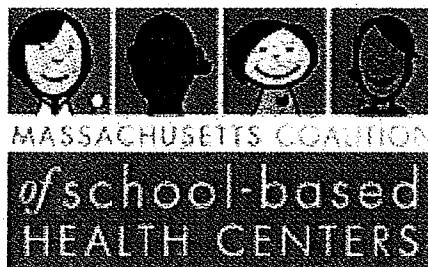
*** In the Planning Stage



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On the front lines of children's health www.mcsbhc.org

Massachusetts School-Based Health Center Locations

2008-2009



There are 64 school-based health centers located throughout the Commonwealth serving students in 69 schools.

Andover

Greater Lawrence Technical School **

Allston

Gardner Elementary School **

Jackson Mann Elementary School **

Boston

Boston Community Leadership Academy**

Another Course to College**

Muriel Snowden International High School

Brighton

Brighton High School

Buckland

Mohawk Trail Regional School

Cambridge

Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School

Charlestown

Charlestown High School

Chelsea

Chelsea High School

Dorchester

Dorchester Educational Complex

Harbor School

Martin Luther King High School

Jeremiah Burke High School

East Boston

East Boston High School **

East Longmeadow

East Longmeadow High School*

Everett

Everett High School *

George Keverian Elementary School

Fitchburg

Fitchburg High School***

Framingham

Framingham High School ***

Gloucester

Gloucester High School

Harwich

Cape Cod Regional Technical
High School *

Holyoke

Dean Technical High School

Holyoke High School

Peck Middle School

Huntington

Gateway Regional School

Hyannis

Barnstable High School

Hyde Park

Hyde Park Educational
Complex**

Jamaica Plain

English High School

Lawrence

Lawrence High School

Lowell

Lowell High School

Rogers Middle School **

Stoklosa Middle School **

Lynn

Breed Middle School

Ingalls' School

Lynn Classical High School **

Lynn English High School

Lynn Vocational Technical
Institute

Marshall Middle School

Northfield

Pioneer Valley Regional School*

Revere

Revere High School

Roxbury

Boston Latin Academy

George A. Lewis Middle School

John D. O'Bryant School Math/Science

Madison Park High School

Salem

Salem High School

Somerville

Somerville High School

Springfield

Brightwood Elementary School *

Central High School

East Longmeadow **

Gerena German School

High School of Commerce

Rebecca M. Johnson School

Roger Putnam Vocational Technical High
School

Taunton

Friedman Middle School

Taunton High School

Upton

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational
Technical High School

Winchendon

Murdock Middle/High School

Worcester

Woodland and Claremont Academies

Burncoat Middle & High School

Doherty Memorial High

Elm Park Community School

Goddard & UPC School Based
Health Centers **

North High School

Roosevelt Elementary School

South High Community School

Sullivan Middle School

Worcester Technical High School **

KEY

No Footnote indicates state funded Fiscal Year 2009 (48)

* Exclusively Locally Funded (4)

** Federally Funding (14)

*** In the Planning Stage (2)



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